

C H U R C H N E W S

F R O M T H E N O R T H E R N C O U N T R I E S

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Several Northern Missionary Societies against the Integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

In some of the Northern countries a certain amount of opposition is expected to the plan of an integration of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. Shortly after the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches had passed a resolution in Galyatetö to continue their efforts towards an integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council which was planned for 1960, the Northern Missionary Council, which is the joint organization of the missionary councils in the Northern countries, met in Hurdal Verk (Norway), and here the question was discussed on an unofficial level. According to the Chairman of the Norwegian Missionary Council, the secretary general of the Santal Mission, Ernst Hallen, it was evident that "the plan of integration has found little support in the Northern countries".

The opposition to the plans is particularly strong in Norway, but in Sweden and Finland it is also a fact that a number of Missionary societies have serious misgivings about the plans. The reason for this negative attitude is partly the fear that the International Missionary Council will become merely a sub-section of the World Council of Churches, and thereby that its initiative will be strangled, and partly, as has been pointed out in sections of the Norwegian missionary press, the fear that an integration will inevitably lead to discord in mission work because the national Missionary Councils include groups which in no circumstances are prepared to join the World Council of Churches. The Danish Missionary Council is fully prepared to support the plans for integration.

New Chairman in the Northern Missionary Council.

Pastor Matti Peltola was elected the new chairman of the Northern Missionary Council at the recent meeting of the Council at Hurdal Verk. The Council, which comprises two representatives of the Missionary Councils of each of the Northern countries, generally meets every second year. At this year's meeting committees were set up for the purpose of making proposals for a joint Northern missionary manual and a missionary text book for use at the universi-

ties in the Northern countries. A proposal for a joint Northern missionary academy for the advanced training of missionaries was, however, turned down.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Finland in 1958, but plans have also been made for a meeting of European missionary councils at Nyborg Strand (Denmark) in April 1957.

Many Northern Church Summer Meetings.

A number of Northern meetings and conferences have been held this summer in various places throughout the Northern countries. Leaders of a number of church organizations have met for joint deliberations and meetings have been held for lay members of the church from the five countries.

In Sigtuna (Sweden) the third Northern Ecumenical Meeting was held in August; the Northern Ecumenical Institute was the host and the motto of the Meeting was "Under the Leadership of the Holy Spirit". The promoter of these meetings is the former Bishop of Stockholm, the Right Rev. Manfred Björkquist, who was also the first speaker at Sigtuna. A number of Northern clergymen also spoke on current religious and devotional subjects.

The Sigtuna Institute has also arranged a conference on liturgical questions, where representatives of the liturgical commissions in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden met.

Between four and five hundred people attended a meeting of the Northern Home Mission at Helsingfors (Helsinki) where the speakers included some of the leaders of the religious revival movement in the Northern countries, among them Professor Ole Hallesby and Pastor Fr. Wisløff, Norway, Pastor C. Bartholdy from Denmark, Pastor Nils Dahlberg from Sweden, and Dean Urho Muroma from Finland. Nearly half of the participants were Norwegian.

About the same time three hundred Folk High School teachers from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden took part in a meeting in Järvenpää (Träskända), Finland, to discuss how the Folk High School best carries out its mission in the community of to-day.

At Stenungsön in Sweden a number of teachers from Baptist training colleges in the Northern countries met for a conference at which the main subject of discussion was Baptism. This conference was the second of a series and the next meeting will probably be held in Denmark.

The Northern Christian Temperance Societies (Blue Cross and Blue Ribbon) have held a council meeting at Kolding (Denmark). The Rev. M.N. Randkær of Copenhagen, was elected the new Chairman of the Northern Council.

Finally, 220 Lutheran clergymen from the Northern countries were assembled in Reykjavik (Iceland). In Iceland this was regarded as a momentous occasion in the history of the Church, for never before had so many Northern clergymen been gathered together for a meeting in Iceland. The next meeting is to take place in Denmark.

Northern Pacifists Send a Resolution to UN.

A Northern Pacifist Congress which included representatives of "No More War" (Denmark), Finland's Pacifist Association, "The People's Movement against War" (Norway), and the Swedish Universal Peace Mission took place in Gvarv (Norway); the Congress dispatched a resolution to the UN Human Rights Commission appealing on behalf of conscientious objectors. The appeal runs as follows: "No person should be forced to do military service when military training and participation in war goes against his inmost personal conviction. We appeal to all governments to give these young people an opportunity of taking part in international relief work in the fight against hunger and social need in place of doing their military service".

DENMARK

Danish Comments on the Rehabilitation of Bishop Ordass.

Shortly after the conclusion of the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Galyatetö the Christian Daily News (Kristeligt Dagblad) brought a full report of the negotiations concerning the rehabilitation of Bishop Ordass and of the very deplorable part played by the two present Lutheran bishops in Hungary in recent church politics. According to a leader in the paper on the subject, world opinion cannot count itself satisfied with a rehabilitation of Ordass by the State, but demands that he should also be reinstated in his bishopric. "Although the civic and legal rehabilitation of an innocently convicted is of the utmost importance, the matter does not end before Ordass is reinstalled as bishop. To this end he was called and ordained. As bishop he won the trust and affection of his flock. He was removed from this high office on the grounds of accusations which are now admitted to be false. The conclusion resting on these premisses is self-evident. And we imagine that the Hungarian government understands this and realizes that only by reinstalling Ordass can the matter be brought to a close. The appointment of Ordass to a chair in theology is no satisfactory solution. It is the actual leadership of the church which is at stake. This leadership which on the fall of Ordass fell into wrong hands. There should be no alternative to righting this wrong, however strange it may be to disavow such obedient servants as Vetö and Deszéry.

In the coming days Christians throughout the world will be listening for news about Bishop Ordass. And the sight of relief will not be breathed to the full until it is learned that Ordass is again reinstalled in his high office.

Congress for Luther Scholars to be held every fifth year.

Eighty Luther Scholars from the whole world, including non-Lutherans, have been assembled at Aarhus (Denmark) in August for a congress. This was the first international congress for Luther scholars, and it was arranged by the Theological Commission of the Lutheran World Federation, the chairman of which is Professor Regn Prenter, Aarhus.

The congress, which was opened by Professor Prenter and the President of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Hanns Lilje, Hannover, offered a number of lectures on problems in connection with research on Luther, held by some of the most prominent scholars in the world. There were also a number of reports on the present stage of Luther research in different countries.

The scholars were agreed that this form of international contact should be continued if possible, and a committee was set up to prepare the programme for the next congress, which is planned for 1960. The place has not yet been decided. It is planned to hold congresses every fifth year thenceforward.

The "Faith and Order" Section Dealing with "Tradition and Traditions" Assembled in Copenhagen.

The section of the "Faith and Order" commission working on the question of "Tradition and Traditions" recently held a meeting at the University of Copenhagen under the chairmanship of Professor K.E. Skydsgaard, Copenhagen. The main question discussed by the meeting was the relation between the Bible and Christian tradition during the first centuries. Besides the chairman the following took part in the meeting: Professor Bonis from Greece, Canon Greenslade from England, Professor Eberling and Professor Leuba from Switzerland, and Professor Molland, Norway. Other participants were the Secretary of the "Faith and Order" Commission, Dr. Robert Nelson of Geneva and the chairman of the American section, Professor Outler from Texas, U.S.A.

Five Hundred Participants Expected at the European Y.M.C.A. Conference in 1957.

The provisional programme has already been arranged for the Third European Y.M.C.A. Conference to be held at Aarhus (Denmark) from 20th - 26th July, 1957. Five hundred participants are expected. The main conference is intended for representatives over eighteen years of age, but concurrently with the main conference a special meeting for young persons between fourteen and eighteen is to be held; in addition, just before July 20th, a special conference has been arranged for Y.M.C.A. secretaries.

The motto of the conference is "Praise to the Lord", and besides lectures the programme includes Bible lessons, sports, singing, and music. The conference is to end with a church concert in Aarhus Cathedral.

The First Roman Catholic School Principal Appointed in Denmark.

For the first time a Roman Catholic has been appointed principal of a Danish primary school, in which, according to law, the religious instruction "must be in accordance with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church". The appointment is subject to the proviso that the principal in question may not teach religious knowledge and history, and may not superintend the instruction in these subjects. The superintendence of these subjects have been taken over by the Chief Education Officer in Odense, where the new principal has been appointed.

The appointment and the proviso have given rise to lively discussions. The chairman of the Danish Teachers' Association, Stinus Nielsen, claims that the appointment is a mistake, as a school principal must be in a position to superintend all subjects taught in his school, and this is not possible for a Roman Catholic. The Conservative daily "Berlingske Tidende" does not find that there is any reason for the Ministry of Education debarring a Roman Catholic from teaching history in a primary school, no less so because a Communist is not debarred from teaching this subject in primary and secondary schools and at the University.

The newly appointed principal, Strange Ebbesen, states that "as long as the Danish primary school rests on the foundations of the Danish National Church there is nothing unreasonable in a Roman Catholic being debarred from teaching religious knowledge and history, although the reasons for the ban on teaching the latter subject seems somewhat vague".

The Copenhagen paper "Kristeligt dagblad" applauds the appointment in Odense. It is only right and reasonable that a Roman Catholic can become principal of a school, states the paper, which is issued within the Lutheran National Church, at the same time expressing the hope that a similar arrangement could be made for Protestants in Spain. The paper admits that while it is obvious that a Roman Catholic or a Baptist cannot teach Lutheran children religious knowledge, the question is more complex in the case of history. However, it finds that this decision too is reasonable as it is essential that an important historical event such as the Reformation is not taught the children from a Roman Catholic point of view.

Roman Catholic and Lutheran Esperanto Church Services in Copenhagen.

In connection with the Esperanto Congress in Copenhagen this summer, attended by 2,200 people from forty different countries, two services, comprising a sermon, liturgy, and hymns, were held in Esperanto. The Lutheran service was held in Copenhagen Cathedral and the Roman Catholic service was held in the Church of St. Ansgar. The International League of Christian Esperantists arranged special meetings on a day during the congress when no other arrangements had been made.

The New Abortion Act Passed.

The revised Danish Abortion Bill, which as mentioned in CN/No. 18 gives easier access to induced abortion by making to partly social indications a sufficient reason for induced abortion, was carried in spite of sharp protests from many sides, especially the Christian "Young Homes" Movement. In a few days over 22,000 signatures were collected for a protest addressed to Parliament but the Bill was carried in its unamended form despite repeated attempts by the opposition (about one third of the members) to introduce certain amendments to the Bill.

FINLAND

Two New Bishops in Finland.

A bishop has been appointed to the new diocese set up in Lapua (CN/No.17). On Sunday, September 9th, Archbishop Ilmari Salomies installed teol. lic. Eero Lehtinen at a service in the new cathedral in Lapua, in the presence of the President of the Republic, Dr. Kekkonen, and bishops representing the other Northern Churches. Bishop Lehtinen was only second in the elections, but the President has the right to choose between the three candidates who score the highest number of votes, and he chose Lehtinen. The reason is presumably that Bishop Lehtinen belongs to the so-called Evangelical trend within the Church, and this has hitherto not been represented among the bishops. His choice may also have been affected by the fact that Olavi Kares, the top candidate, is closely associated with the so-called "National People's Movement" (the Lappo Movement).

Teol. dr. Toivo Laitinen has been appointed Army Bishop. Dr. Laitinen has for a number of years been secretary general to the Finnish Home Mission and was for a short time editor of the Christian paper "Kotimaa". He has taken part in both Finnish wars as an officer and chaplain.

The Restoration of Kyrkslätt Church to Cost 40 Million Finmark.

Estimates show that the restoration of the old church in Kyrkslätt in the previously Russian occupied Porkkala area will cost 40 million Finnish mark. Part of this sum has been raised by gifts from Denmark and Sweden (57,000 Danish crowns and over 100,000 Swedish crowns) and by the collection which was taken in all Finnish churches in the spring, and which raised 2,4 million Finmark. The cost of restoring the more recent Degerby Church has been estimated at six million Finmark; in addition, there will be the expenses of restoring the vicarages in Porkkala.

The Monastery at Konevits Dissolved.

The Orthodox monastery at Konevits has been dissolved, for all the remaining monks have, in accordance with the unanimous decision of the Church Council, been moved to Papinniemi in Heinävesi, to where all the monks from the Valamo Monastery were moved when Valamo was incorporated into Russia after the war. The reason for the dissolution of the Konevits monastery is that the monks are now so old that the upkeep of the monastery can no longer be left in their hands. The lands belonging to the monastery will be tenanted and the archives incorporated in the archives of the Church Council.

New Church Built by Ecumenical Labour Camps.

A new church has been erected in Finland built by the participants in ecumenical labour camps during the summers of 1955 and 1956. The new church is at Aspö in the Finnish Archipelago, where the existing church was completely destroyed in a storm in 1949. Last summer the ruins of the old church were demolished by the participants in the ecumenical labour camp arranged by the World Council of Churches, and the foundations were laid for the new

church. This year the efforts of the participants in the second labour camp have resulted in the erection of the new church, and now only the fitting of the church remains to be done. The Church in Finland has with joy and gratitude accepted this contribution from young Christians from other countries and other churches.

The Church to Introduce the Gospel into the Vocational Schools.

At the present time about 40,000 young Finns are receiving their training at vocational schools which belong under the Ministry of Trade and Industry or the Ministry of Agriculture, and in only very few of these Schools is there any religious or spiritual instruction. This fact was published by a committee which was set up by the Home Mission, and which has now made its report. Morning prayers are held at most agricultural colleges, problems of a philosophical and spiritual nature are included in the syllabuses of several of the subjects studied, and there are various forms of voluntary Christian work, Bible lessons and discussions at several of the schools. But in the opinion of the Committee, the Church has not fully done its duty towards the young people at these vocational schools, who are just at the age where problems of a religious nature crop up, and it is important that these young people in particular should hear the Church's message, for later in life many of them become influential members of society. A greater effort should be made in schools which come under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, for religious practice is weaker here than in the agricultural colleges. A committee set up by the Christian Education Centre is laying down rules for religious instruction in vocational schools.

The Christian Revivalist Movements and the Social Development.

The well-known theologian, Professor Yrjö J.E. Alanen, Helsinki (Helsingfors), who is a Christian Social-Democrat and at the same time closely associated with the revivalist movement recently wrote an article on these movements and the social development in the paper "Kotimaa". He said among other things:

"In new social environments a spiritual revival may take on another form and nature than the revivalist movements in the old patriarchal rural society. The word of God and the Gospel of Christ remain the same throughout the ages and under all conditions, but the outward form of Christian life may change under changing outward conditions of life. Therefore there should be no attempt to try to force the revivalist movements which have sprung up under new conditions of living into the conventional patterns. It is possible that through new revivalist movements God also wishes to emphasize aspects of Christianity which have not previously been sufficiently recognized. When a missionary begins to work among a new and to him strange people, he tries to learn something about the way of life, the philosophy and the aims of this people. This is just as important for him as to learn the language of the people. In our country a clergyman needs not, after having taken his degree, learn a new language, but it is certainly most essential for many a clergyman and layman to learn something about the ways, mentality, and aims in life of the working classes, in order to make a success of their work among them. In this very sphere there has in recent times been a welcome revival among the Church leaders.

I C E L A N D

The Greatest Church Festival in the History of Iceland.

The festival at Skalholt this summer in commemoration of the nine hundredth anniversary of the first Icelandic see was the greatest Christian festival in the history of Iceland. In brilliant sunshine between seven and eight thousand people were assembled on the site of the old cathedral at Skalholt. A procession of a hundred clergy, headed by Bishop Asmundur Gudmundson, proceeded across the future cathedral square, and heading the procession were also the two Icelandic Ordination Bishops, Archbishop Salomies, Finland, Bishop Smemo, Norway, Bishop Manfred Björkquist, former Bishop of Stockholm, Sweden, Bishop Øllgaard, Denmark, and Dean Joensen from the Faroes. The Church bells which were a gift from Sweden, Norway, and Finland rang in the festival. Denmark's gift was an organ, and the Faroes presented a christening font. The Bishop of Iceland delivered a sermon, and laid the foundation stone of the new cathedral, which in the course of two or three years will rise up on the site of the first cathedral; Dr. Magnus Jónsson gave a lecture on the religious and mundane importance of Skalholt in history. In honour of the jubilee the cathedral organist, Pall Isolfsson, had composed a cantate, the text of which was written by Pastor Sigurdur Einarsson. The cantate was sung by a choir of 340 voices conducted by the cathedral organist. The President of Iceland made a speech which was followed by the presentation of a church play showing scenes from the history of Skalholt. The Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs delivered the closing speech.

N O R W A Y

The Church is Preparing for the Start of Television.

The Norwegian Radio has recently decided to make preparations for a television net in Norway. The first ordinary transmission can be expected in three years. The committee which has handled the matter has expressed doubts as to whether religious programmes in general will be suitable for transmission, apart from such special religious ceremonies as the ordination of bishops, the dedication of churches, etc.

As regards the Church's part in the future programmes, the Christian Listeners' Association, which numbers about 20,000 members has immediately decided to prepare for the start of television. A collection will be started to secure funds for the training of Christian experts in this field. Collaboration between the National Church and the Free Churches is also planned in order that they may reach joint agreement about the problems affecting the Church to which television will give rise.

New Contact between Church and Workers.

During the last year the newly created Norwegian Church Institute has held a number of successful conferences between the Church and the workers. In the largest industrial centres trade union leaders and clergymen have been invited to week-end conferences where the relationship between the Church and the Labour Movement has been discussed. Often a trade union leader has opened a discussion

on the subject "What are we dissatisfied with in the Church".

One of the clergymen who has taken an active part in these conferences is Pastor Alex Johnson, a well-known preacher and youth leader. After a conference at the new big iron works built by the State at Mo in northern Norway, Pastor Johnson stated that "there was a surprisingly positive atmosphere at the meeting. It is typical that the workers do not wish to be regarded as being more ungodly than other people. Nor they are, we assured them, and nor was this the reason for our special efforts to get on speaking terms with them. Quite the contrary, the reason is that we feel that the Church has grown very far away from workers and their problems, and therefore we need to get to know them better".

Bishop Berggrav lays the Foundation Stone of the Christian Nerve Sanatorium.

During the last year over two million crowns have been collected for a Christian nerve sanatorium which is to be built outside Oslo. The building is to commence now, and a short time ago at a ceremony on the building site, Bishop Eivind Berggrav placed a Bible in a copper box which was immured on the site.

The initiative for the building of the sanatorium was taken by Dr. Gordon Johnson, the well-known Norwegian neurologist, and Dr. Einar Lundby, who is at present running a convalescent home. They both stress that many nervous diseases can best be cured by the close co-operation of Christian physicians and clergymen, between medical treatment and the cure of souls.

Every Fourth Norwegian has seen the Mission Exhibition.

Every fourth inhabitant of Norway has visited an exhibition entitled "To the Ends of the Earth", arranged by the Norwegian Missionary Society, which, since 1948, has been shown in sixty different places in Norway. Hitherto 800,000 people have visited the exhibition.

The exhibition, which has constantly been changed and enlarged since it was opened, consists of models of Norwegian mission stations and of exhibits from the different peoples among whom Norwegian missionaries work. The exhibitions includes 1,500 exhibits and a number of missionaries are in attendance at the exhibition to explain the work of the Norwegian missionaries.

Lively Discussion on Euthanasia and Restricted Motherhood.

A lecture at the International Legal Congress in Oslo this summer has given rise to an impassioned debate in the Norwegian press. The Austrian lawyer Dr. Jahoda put forward a proposal for "an extension of human rights" to the effect that persons who are hopelessly ill or in an advanced state of senile decay should be allowed euthanasia if their request is approved by a commission of doctors and judges. Dr. Jahoda's other proposal was that all women should be allowed to give birth to two children, permission to have more than two children only being given to particularly "pure-bred parents", thus resulting in an improvement of the human race.

The proposals, which in fact were not very well received by the conference, have given rise to a storm of protests. Bishop Eivind Berggrav has stated to an Oslo newspaper that such a lecture hindered rather than helped the efforts to create respect for the elementary human rights. He stressed the distressing experiences in connection with euthanasia in the past, and described restricted motherhood as brutal coercion. The daily paper "Stavang-eren" comments that instead of safeguarding human rights the proposal showed a terrifying lack of respect for man. The Bergen Christian daily "Dagen" denounced the proposal about the right to euthanasia as an expression of the desire of man to put himself in God's place.

The Spiritual Situation in Norway lightens.

While many Christian leaders in recent years have been rather pessimistic about the spiritual situation in Norway, in the present year optimistic comments on the spiritual situation have been heard more than once. Thus we have two recent statements by leaders of voluntary Christian organizations.

Professor Ole Hallesby, who this summer retired from the chairmanship of the Home Mission Society after having held this post for thirty-three years, said on his retirement that this last three-year period had been the best in the history of the Society since the crisis. The Professor said in his report: "Slowly but surely we are on our way out of the trough of the wave. From fifteen out of twenty-three circles there is news of revival, particularly in southern and western Norway, and our preachers say that it is easier now than formerly to spread the Word of God".

In the same direction as this statement goes another one made by the secretary general Thormod Vågen, to the newspaper "Vårt Land" about the work in the Norwegian Luther Mission, an organization which runs both Home and Foreign Mission. He describes the spiritual situation in Norway as being more hopeful than it has been for a long time. Religious interest and practice is increasing and new young people are volunteering for missionary work.

News in Brief.

The International movement "Christian Endeavour" which aims at making the laity take an active part in the service of the Church has held a conference at Oslo. 130 representative of a number of European countries and of Lebanon took part in the conference.

Pastor Fr. Wislöff has succeeded Professor Ole Hallesby as Chairman of the Norwegian Home Mission Society.

The chairman of the Norwegian Council of Free Churches (Dissentertinget) Dr. theol. Alf Lier, has been appointed Rector of the Theological College of the Northern Methodist Churches at Överås in Sweden.

S W E D E N

Islam Missionizing in the Northern Countries.

Kamal Yousuf, a missionary sent out by the Mohammedan movement Ahmadiyya Muslim in Pakistan, has begun to missionize in Sweden this summer. In an interview with "Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning" he states that he has chosen Göteborg as his headquarters owing to the central position of the town in relation to the other Northern countries, and he now intends to begin to translate the Koran into Swedish while at the same time seeking to spread Mohammedanism in Sweden and the other Northern countries through talks, sermons, newspaper articles, and, above all, through prayer.

The first Mohammedan Friday service in Sweden was held in a tea-room in Stockholm; there were eight people present. Here Kamal Yousuf read out of the Koran in Arabic, preached in English, and offered prayers in Arabic. There are as yet in Stockholm only three followers of the particular sect which Yousuf represents, while there are in all about ninety followers of Islam. Yousuf intends to spend three or four years in Sweden and his hope is that at least one mosque will be erected in Sweden, preferably in Stockholm, and he also hopes to build up a congregation which will continue the work of missionizing for Islam.

Christian Candidates well-placed on the Eve of the Parliamentary Elections.

Dealing with the nominations of the liberal Swedish People's Party on the eve of the parliamentary elections which have taken place in September, the Stockholm Free Church daily "Svenska Morgonbladet" reports that there are more Christian candidates than there have been for a long time. A number of the foremost personalities of the Free Church movement have been elected and this is due to their generally recognized ability in such public offices as they have held.

The newspaper mentions this fact in a leader on the responsibility of the Christian community both in matters of State and local government. All Christian bodies must do their bit to see to it that the number of people who do not vote at elections grow less, so that an increasing number of people will come to regard civic rights as a duty, says the "Svenska Morgonbladet"; this does not mean, however, that it is sufficient merely to vote on election day. To many Christians it means that they must recognize their direct personal responsibility and that they must spend time and effort on questions of national and local importance. From a Christian point of view there is nothing more important than that able and well-informed men and women of all political parties work for the public good in this way. Taking the long view, purposeful efforts in this direction should yield good results.

Orthodox-Anglican-Lutheran Conference in Lund.

The Swedish section of the Society of St. Alban and St. Sergius, a semi-official ecumenical group whose special concern is the relation between the Orthodox, the Anglican, and the Lutheran

Church, has held a conference in Lund this summer at which the principal speakers were two of the professors at the Orthodox Faculty in Paris, Leon Zander and Boris Bobrinsky. The subjects at the conference included Holiness, The Virgin Mary and the Unity of the Church, The Saints and the Unity of the Church, The Church Fathers and the Unity of the Church, and Justification and Sanctification from a Lutheran Point of View. In the intervals between the lectures and negotiations, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran services were held.

The Disastrous Increase in the Abuse of Alcohol in Sweden.

Since the sale of alcohol was derestricted in the autumn of 1955, and the regulations about the serving of wines and spirits in restaurants were modified, there has been a disastrous increase in the abuse of alcohol. The consumption of alcohol has risen by 35-40% but at the same time the number of arrestations owing to drunkenness has increased twice over, and in Stockholm three times over. The number of young people arrested owing to drunken disorderliness was 123% higher in the second quarter of this year than in the same quarter of last year. The number of traffic accidents due to the abuse of alcohol has also risen alarmingly, and many authorities and private persons are busy trying to find a means to put a brake on this disastrous development. A drastic increase in the price of spirits has been suggested; this might reduce the consumption.

Discipline and effectivity in industry has also been affected by the increased consumption of alcohol, and the trade union organizations have had to set a sharper course in dealing with miscreants. One of the trade unions has sent out a circular stating that members who become unemployed as a result of drunkenness will receive no benefits whatever from the Union.

Two New Bishops Appointed.

Two new bishops have been appointed in the Swedish Lutheran National Church. The Dean of Karlstad, Gert Borgenstierna, has been appointed Bishop of Karlstad, and the Dean of Växjö, Ivar Hylander, has been appointed to the see of Luleå. Both the new bishops are Doctors of Theology, and have been lecturers at the University of Uppsala. Bishop Hylander has also been head of the Laymen's School at Sigtuna, literary adviser to the Church Publishing House, and editor of "Svensk Kyrkotidning" for four years.

Christian Esperantists call for Christian Unity.

The International Christian Esperanto Society has held its ninth world congress in Jönköping in August with 125 participants from eight countries. Mr. H.A. de Hoog from Amsterdam was re-elected chairman and Mr. Erik Carlén of Kumla in Sweden was elected vice-chairman. A resolution was published calling for greater co-operation between Christians all over the world to prevent victimization on religious or racial grounds and calling all Christians to prayer for a world-wide religious revival.

Official Church Committee to Investigate Relations with the State.

In wide circles in the Swedish Lutheran National Church the relationship between Church and State is under discussion. The reason being that the Constitutional Committee of the Swedish Parliament has requested a statement on this relationship from a number of Church authorities and that several of these statements have already been submitted. Thus "Svensk Kyrkotidning" has published a detailed statement on the question from the Faculty of Theology at the University of Lund. The Faculty does not consider that there is any reason or Committee to work out a fundamental statement on the relationship between Church and State with a view to a segregation of the two parts, but it recommends that a committee should investigate the functioning of the relationship in practice, and put forward suggestions for changes and improvements which seems necessary and desirable.

The Bishops' Meeting and the National Federation of Swedish Pastors and the Society of Swedish Clergymen have set up a joint committee called The Church Organization Committee to investigate different problems in connection with the relationship between Church and State and to attempt to lay down some general lines to ensure the best possible working conditions for the Church. For this purpose conditions in other countries are to be investigated.

New Head of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden.

A new Head of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden has been appointed in place of Mr. Richard Larsson, who for health reasons did not wish to accept renomination. The new Head elected by the conference of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden is Mr. Gösta Nicklasson.

The Meeting of the Commission on Theology of the Lutheran World Federation in Sweden.

The Commission on Theology of the Lutheran World Federation met in Göteborg (Sweden) from August 20th to 24th. The chairman was Professor Regin Prenter of Aarhus (Denmark). The aim of the meeting was first and foremost to finish preparing the study document for the meeting of the Lutheran World Federation in Minneapolis next summer.

On the basis of the comments received on the study document ("Christ frees and unites") from Lutheran churches, university faculties, and individual theologians the world over Professor Ernst Kinder, Münster, had prepared the first draft of the document, and the Commission has now completed it in its final form.

In connection with the meeting of the Theological Commission, the Commission on Liturgy of the Lutheran World Federation also held a meeting. After three years' preparatory work the Commission has formulated a number of general principles for the different phases of the Lutheran liturgy. The Chairman of the Liturgy Commission is Professor Christard Mahrenholz, of Hannover (Germany)

